

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

Paragraph beginning on line 2 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application no. 60/038,544, filed on February 28, 1997, U.S. Patent No. 6,040,045.

In the claims:

1. (amended) A method of making a particulate ["pearlescent"] pearlescent pigment for plastic products [which comprise] , said particulate comprising small hard resin particles of different sizes containing pearlescent reflective flakes which are aligned in each particle with their flat surfaces generally parallel, the method comprising: mixing a binder resin with said pearlescent reflective flakes, solidifying the binder resin in such a way to cause alignment of the flakes with their flat surfaces generally parallel, and [comminuting] converting the resultant solidified binder resin to make said small hard particles of at least two different sizes.
3. (amended) The method of making a filed hard surfacing material having [a new bold and] an aesthetically pleasing appearance, comprising adding pearlescent pigment ed particulate [ing additive particles made according to claim 1] comprising small hard resin particles of different sizes containing pearlescent reflective flakes which are aligned in each particle with their flat surfaces generally parallel [to] in a plastic material as a matrix to form a mix, and then forming and solidifying said mix[.] , said particulate being made by mixing a binder resin with said pearlescent reflective flakes, solidifying the binder resin in such a way to cause alignment of the flakes with their flat surfaces generally parallel, and converting the resultant solidified binder resin to make said small hard particles of at least two different sizes.
5. (amended) A method according to claim 4 wherein the plastic material is a hard polyester or acrylic.
6. (amended) A method according to claim 5 wherein the plastic material is a hard polyester or acrylic.